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**THE
CATECHISMS
OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODISTS;**

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED

**BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE,
FOR THE USE OF THE FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS
CONNECTED WITH THAT BODY.**



**NO. I.
FOR CHILDREN OF TENDER YEARS.**



**WITH AN APPENDIX,
Containing a Short Catechism of Scripture Names, and
Prayers for Little Children.**

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A SERIES OF CATECHISMS, &c.

SECTION 1.—OF GOD.

1. *Who made you?* — God made me.
2. *What is God?* — ~~God is an Infinite and Eternal~~ Spirit, one that always was, and always will be.
3. *Where is God?* — God is everywhere.
4. *What can God do?* — God can do whatever he will.
5. *Does God know all things?* — God knows every thought in man's heart, every word, and every action.
6. *Will he call us to account for all we think and do?* — God will call us to account for all we think and do; for at the last day every work shall be brought into judgment, and every secret thing, whether it be good or evil.
7. *Does God love you?* — God loves every thing which he has made.
8. *What has God made?* — God has made every thing, and in particular man. *in heaven and on earth and in all man*

SECT. 2.—THE CREATION OF MAN.

1. *How did God make man?* — God made the body of man out of the dust of the earth.

2. *Did his soul come from the dust?*—~~The soul of man did not come from the dust;~~ for "The Lord God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen. ii. 7.)

3. *Why did God make man?*—God made man that he might know and love him, and be happy with him forever.

4. *Where did God put the first man and woman?*—God put the first man and woman in the garden of ~~Paradise.~~

5. *In whose image or likeness was man created?*—Man was created in the image of God.

6. *In what respects was man made like God?*—Man was made like God in knowledge, in holiness, in happiness and immortality.

SECT. 3.—OF THE FALL OF MAN.

1. *Did our first parents continue happy and holy?*—Our first parents did not continue happy and holy; for they sinned against God, and fell into misery.

2. *What is sin?*—Sin is ~~any transgression of~~ the law of God.

3. *What law did God give to our first parents in Paradise?*—The law which God gave our first parents in Paradise was, that he commanded them not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

4. *Did they keep this command?*—They did not keep this command; for they did eat of the tree.

5. What evil did they bring upon themselves thereby? — The evil they brought on themselves by eating was, that they were driven out of *Paradise*, and became subject to guilt, and pain, and death.

6. Did their sin hurt any beside themselves? — Their sin hurt all mankind.

7. How did it hurt them? — The sin of our first parents hurt all mankind by causing them to be born in sin, so that their hearts are corrupt, and inclined only to evil, and they are become subject to pain and death.

8. How are men born in sin? — Men are all born in sin by being born proud, self-willed, lovers of the world, and not lovers of God.

SECT. 4. — OF THE REDEMPTION OF MAN.

1. By whom are we to be saved from sin? — We are to be saved from sin by Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God.

2. What did Jesus Christ do to save us? — Jesus Christ was made man, suffered death in our stead, rose again from the dead, and ascended into heaven, that he might save us.

3. What may we gain by his living and dying for us? — By Christ's living, and dying for us, we may gain forgiveness of sin, and holiness, and heaven.

4. But will he save all mankind? — Christ will save only those who repent and believe in him.

5. What is it to repent? — To repent, is to be sorry for my sins, to confess and forsake them, and to seek forgiveness from God.

6. *What is it to believe in Christ?* — To believe in Christ is, to receive his words, and to trust only in the merits of his death for salvation.

7. *Can you do all this of yourself?* — I cannot repent and believe of myself; but God will help me by his Holy Spirit, if I ask it of him.

8. *What will become of those who do not repent and forsake their sins, and believe in Christ, and obey him?* — They who do not repent and forsake their sins, and believe in Christ, and obey him, when they die, will be cast into hell.

SECT. 5. — OF HEAVEN AND HELL.

1. *What sort of a place is hell?* — Hell is a dark and bottomless pit, full of fire and brimstone.

2. *How will the wicked be punished there?* — The wicked will be punished in hell by having their bodies tormented by fire, and their souls by a sense of the wrath of God.

3. *How long will these torments last?* — The torments of hell will last forever and ever.

4. *Where will believers go after death?* — After death believers will go to heaven.

5. *What sort of a place is heaven?* — Heaven is a place of light and glory.

6. *How will good men live there?* — Good men will live in heaven in joy and happiness forever.

7. *Will they suffer nothing there?* — Good men will suffer nothing in heaven; for they will have no want, nor pain, nor sin.

8. *What sort of bodies will they have?* — Good

men in heaven will have bodies such as can never die, made like the glorious body of Jesus Christ.

9. *How will they be employed?* — Good men in heaven will be employed in praising and serving God, and in acts of love towards one another.

10. *What kind of person must you become, that you may go to this glorious and happy place?* — That I may go to this glorious and happy place, I must be holy in heart and life.

11. *What is it to be holy in heart?* — To be holy in heart, is to be saved from anger, pride, the love of the world, and other sins; and to love God with all my heart, and mind, and soul, and strength.

12. *What is it to be holy in life?* — To be holy in life, is to do my duty to God and man according to God's holy word.

13. *What is your duty to God?* — My duty to God is to obey his laws, to honor him, and worship him.

14. *What is your duty to man?* — My duty to man is to obey my parents, to reverence my superiors, to speak the truth always, and to be just, kind, and forgiving to all men.

15. *How can you do this?* — I can do my duty to God and man only by the grace of God.

16. *What is this grace?* — The grace of God is the power of the Holy Ghost enabling us to believe, and to love and serve God.

17. *How are we to seek this?* — We are to seek the grace of God in a constant and careful use of the means of grace.

18. *Which are the chief means of grace?* — The chief means of grace are private and public prayer, searching the Scriptures, hearing God's word preached, the Lord's supper, and fasting.

19. *How long is every Christian to use the means of grace?* — A Christian is to use the means of grace to his life's end.

20. *Let me hear you repeat the Lord's Prayer.* — Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come: thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

21. *Rehearse the articles of your belief.* — I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

22. *Repeat the Ten Commandments.* — And God spake all these words, saying,

I. I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Y. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's. (Exodus xx. 1-17.)

APPENDIX TO No. 1.

A SHORT CATECHISM OF SCRIPTURE NAMES FOR CHILDREN OF THE SAME AGE.

1. *Who was Adam?* — The first man that God made, and the father of us all.
2. *Who was Eve?* — The first woman, and the mother of us all.
3. *Who was Cain?* — Adam's eldest son, who killed his brother Abel.
4. *Who was Abel?* — A better man than Cain; and therefore Cain hated him.
5. *Who was Enoch?* — A man who pleased God, and who was taken up to heaven without dying.
6. *Who was Noah?* — That good man who was saved when the world was drowned.
7. *Who was Abraham?* — The pattern of believers, and the friend of God.
8. *Who was Isaac?* — Abraham's son according to God's promise.
9. *Who was Jacob?* — Isaac's younger son.
10. *Who was Joseph?* — Jacob's beloved son; but his brethren hated him, and sold him for a slave.
11. *Who were the twelve Patriarchs?* — The

twelve sons of Jacob, and the fathers of the people of Israel.

12. *Who was Pharaoh?* — The King of Egypt, who was drowned in the Red Sea, with his army.

13. *Who was Moses?* — The deliverer and law-giver of the people of Israel, who led them through the wilderness.

14. *Who was Aaron?* — Moses' brother, and the first High Priest of Israel.

15. *Who were the Priests?* — They who offered sacrifices to God, and taught his laws to men.

16. *Who was Joshua?* — The leader of Israel when Moses was dead, who brought them into the Promised Land.

17. *Who were the Prophets?* — Persons whom God taught to foretell things to come, and to make known his mind to the world.

18. *Who was David?* — The man after God's own heart, who was raised from a shepherd to be King of Israel.

19. *Who was Absalom?* — David's wicked son, who rebelled against his father, and he was killed as he hung on a tree.

20. *Who was Solomon?* — David's beloved son, a King of Israel, and the wisest of men.

21. *Who was Elijah?* — The Prophet who was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire.

22. *Who was Daniel?* — The Prophet who was cast into a den of lions, because he prayed to the true God, and was preserved unhurt.

- 23. Who were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?** — The three Jews who would not worship an image; for which cause they were cast into a fiery furnace, but yet were not burned.
- 24. Who was JESUS CHRIST?** — The SON of GOD, and the Saviour of men.
- 25. Who was the Virgin Mary?** — The mother of JESUS CHRIST.
- 26. Who was Joseph the Carpenter?** — The supposed father of CHRIST, because he married his mother.
- 27. Who were the Jews?** — The family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whom God chose for his own people.
- 28. Who were the Gentiles?** — All the nations besides the Jews.
- 29. Who were the Cæsars?** — The Emperors of Rome, and the rulers of a great part of the world.
- 30. Who was Herod the Great?** — The King of Judea, who killed all the children in Bethlehem, hoping to kill Christ.
- 31. Who was John the Baptist?** — The Prophet who told the Jews that Christ was come.
- 32. Who was the other Herod?** — The King of Galilee, who cut off John the Baptist's head.
- 33. Who were the Disciples of Christ?** — Those who learned of him as their Master.
- 34. Who was Lazarus?** — A friend of Christ, whom he raised to life when he had been dead four days.

35. *Who was Martha?* — Lazarus' sister, who was cumbered too much in making a feast for Christ.

36. *Who was Mary, the sister of Martha?* — The woman that chose the better part, and heard Jesus preach.

37. *Who were the Apostles?* — Those twelve disciples whom Christ chose for the chief Ministers of his Gospel.

38. *Who was Simon Peter?* — The Apostle who denied Christ, but soon afterwards wept bitterly for his sin, and was pardoned.

39. *Who was John?* — The beloved Apostle, who leaned on the bosom of Christ.

40. *Who was Judas?* — The wicked disciple, who betrayed Christ with a kiss.

41. *Who was Caiaphas?* — The High Priest who condemned Christ.

42. *Who was Pontius Pilate?* — The Governor of Judea, who ordered Christ to be crucified.

43. *Who was Joseph of Arimathea?* — A rich man who buried Christ in his own tomb.

44. *Who were the four Evangelists?* — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; who wrote the history of Christ's life and death.

45. *Who were Ananias and Sapphira?* — A man and his wife who were struck dead for telling a lie.

46. *Who was Stephen?* — The first man who was put to death for Christ's sake.

47. Who was Paul? — A young man who was first a persecutor, but afterwards an Apostle of Christ.

48. Who was Dorcas? — A good woman who made clothes for the poor, and who was raised from death.

49. Who was Elymas? — A wicked man who was struck blind for speaking against the Gospel.

50. Who was Eutychus? — A youth who slept at sermon, and, falling down, was taken up dead.

51. Who was Timothy? — A young minister, who knew the Scriptures from a child.

52. Who was Agrippa? — A king who was almost persuaded to be a Christian.

PRAYERS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

Note: As soon as the children begin to learn these Catechisms, they should also learn the following Prayers, concluding each with the Lord's Prayer.

THE INFANT'S OR YOUNG CHILD'S MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Maker of every thing in heaven and earth: The darkness goes away, and the daylight comes, at thy command: thou art good, and thou doest good continually.

I thank thee that thou hast taken such care of me this night, and that I am alive and well this morning.

Save me, O God, from evil all this day long; and may I love and serve thee for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.

Note: The word Amen signifies, that I believe all that I speak, and that I desire from my heart all that I pray for with my lips.

Note: When the child is five or six years old, he may enlarge this Morning Prayer, by adding the following —

Bestow on me every good thing which I need for my body and soul: assist me by thy Holy Spirit to do thy will. make me always afraid to offend thee, and let me live and die in thy favor.

Hear the prayer of a child, O Lord, and pardon all my sins, because thy beloved Son died once on earth for sinful creatures, though he never sinned himself, and now he lives in Heaven to pray for them and save them: may his name be praised for ever and ever. Amen.

THE INFANT'S OR YOUNG CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

O LORD GOD, who knowest all things, thou seest me by night as well as by day.

I pray thee, for Christ's sake, forgive me whatsoever I have done amiss this day, and keep me safe all the night while I am asleep.

I desire to lie down under thy care, and to abide for ever under thy blessing; for thou art the God of all power and of everlasting mercy. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note: When the child is five or six years old, he may enlarge this Evening Prayer by adding the two following paragraphs:—

Bless all my friends* as well as myself; do good to them at all times and in all places, and help me always to serve them in love.

And when I have done thy will here, by thy grace assisting me, and enjoyed thy blessings on earth, then give my soul a place in heaven, that I may there dwell with thee, and with thy Son Jesus Christ; for heaven and earth, and all things in them, are thine for ever and ever. Hear me, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.

* Here the child may mention father and mother, and other relations.

**THE YOUNG CHILD'S PRAYER, FOR THE LORD'S DAY,
TO BE ADDED TO THE MORNING PRAYER.**

SUFFER me not, O Lord, to waste this thy day in sin and folly; but let me worship thee with much delight. Teach me to know more of thee, and to serve thee better than ever I have done before, that I may be made fit to dwell in heaven, where thy worship and service will be everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE YOUNG CHILD'S PRAYER, FOR THE LORD'S DAY,
TO BE ADDED TO THE EVENING PRAYER.**

O MOST gracious God, let me never forget the many good things that I have heard this day; but let them abide in my heart so as to amend my life, that I may be able to give a good account of them to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour when he comes to judge the world at the last day, for whose sake I ask all blessings, and to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE END.

